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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VATICAN 003976

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FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 124/01

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VATICAN VERBATIM

[1](#)1. THE JULY 14-20 EDITION OF NEWS AND VIEWS FROM VATICAN CITY.

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- VATICAN RATIFIES NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY
- WHITE HOUSE ACCUSED OF PUTTING "SPIN" ON PAPAL SPEECH
- 2008 OLYMPICS: CHINA NOT ONLY RIGHTS VIOLATOR TO WIN GAMES
- NEW BISHOPS FOR VIETNAM
- POPE TO VISIT ARMENIA AND KAZAKHSTAN
- ITALY WILL NOT EXTRADITE RWANDAN PRIEST

RATIFICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

[1](#)2. ARCHBISHOP RENATO MARTINO, PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, HAS DELIVERED THE HOLY SEE'S INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY TO THE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. THE TREATY WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1996, AND SIGNED BY THE HOLY SEE ON SEPTEMBER 24 OF THE SAME YEAR. ARCHBISHOP MARTINO EXPRESSED THE VATICAN'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR ENDING ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS, THE CONVENTION FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF LAND MINES, THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS TREATY. WHILE THE HOLY SEE HAS PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, IT HAS FULL (VOTING) MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

VATICAN SAYS WHITE HOUSE PUT "SPIN" ON STEM CELL REMARKS

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[1](#)3. VATICAN SPOKESMAN, JOAQUIN NAVARRO-VALLS HAS ACCUSED UNNAMED WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS OF TRYING TO PUT "A SPIN" ON THE POPE'S WORDS TO PRESIDENT BUSH. WHEN POPE JOHN PAUL II MET THE PRESIDENT JULY 23 HE CONDEMNED THE "CREATION FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES OF HUMAN EMBRYOS." NAVARRO-VALLS SAID JULY 25 THAT THE POPE WAS NOT OPENING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ETHICAL USE AND DESTRUCTION OF EMBRYOS CREATED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. BUSH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE CITED AS SAYING THE POPE'S WORDS, WHILE CLEARLY REFERRING TO EMBRYOS CREATED FOR RESEARCH, MIGHT NOT COVER OTHER EMBRYOS, SUCH AS THOSE CREATED FOR IN VITRO FERTILIZATION BUT NOT IMPLANTED IN A UTERUS. NAVARRO-VALLS STATED THAT THE DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF A HUMAN EMBRYO - NO MATTER HOW OR WHY IT WAS CREATED - IS MORALLY UNACCEPTABLE, EVEN IF THE AIM IS TO HELP OTHERS. (NOTE. WHEN A VATICAN-BASED JOURNALIST ACCUSED NAVARRO-VALLS OF PUTTING HIS OWN "SPIN" ON THE POPE'S SPEECH, HE RETORTED, "NO, IT IS NOT SPIN, IT IS THE TRUTH." END NOTE).

VATICAN NEWS AGENCY: OLYMPICS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE CHINA

[1](#)4. THE DIRECTOR OF VATICAN MISSIONARY NEWS AGENCY "FIDES," FATHER BERNARDO CERVELLERA, SUPPORTS BEIJING HOSTING THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES. IN A JULY 13 STATEMENT, CERVELLERA SAID REFUSING TO GIVE CHINA THE GAMES WOULD HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE AND HYPOCRITICAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRALIA HAD BEEN AWARDED THE 2000 OLYMPICS DESPITE A LONG HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST ITS ABORIGINAL POPULATION. CERVELLERA SAID THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WOULD PROBABLY USE THE GAMES "AS A SORT OF DRUG TO SOFTEN THE HARDSHIPS OF THE

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COMING YEARS" AS IT FACES ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CERVELLERA, A TIME OF HARDSHIP AND STRUGGLE IS NOT WHEN A NATION SHOULD BE IGNORED - RATHER IT IS A TIME TO ENGAGE IT. "THE ALTERNATIVE IS ISOLATION, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE REGIME TO COMPLETELY SUFFOCATE ALL DISSIDENCE," HE SAID. THE PRIEST ADDED THAT WHILE CHINA WAS LIKELY TO INCREASE

SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE GAMES, THERE IS NO WAY IT CAN PREVENT INTERACTION BETWEEN CHINESE CITIZENS AND THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ATHLETES AND TOURISTS WHO WILL TRAVEL TO BEIJING FOR THE OLYMPICS.

NEW BISHOPS FOR VIETNAM

15. POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS APPOINTED THREE NEW BISHOPS FOR VIETNAM. THEY INCLUDE A SUCCESSOR FOR THE INCUMBENT BISHOP

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SUBJECT: VATICAN VERBATIM

OF PHAN THIET DIOCESE, BISHOP-DESIGNATE PAUL NGUYEN THANH HOAN; AN ASSISTANT BISHOP FOR HO CHI MINH CITY, BISHOP-DESIGNATE JOSEPH VU DUY THONG; AND A BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE
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OF BUI CHU, BISHOP-DESIGNATE JOSEPH HOANG VAN TIEM. THE JULY 14 NOMINATIONS COME ONE MONTH AFTER A VATICAN DELEGATION VISITED VIETNAM TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

POPE TO VISIT ARMENIA AND KAZAKHSTAN IN SEPTEMBER

16. THE VATICAN PRESS OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED POPE JOHN PAUL II'S SEPTEMBER 22-27 VISIT TO ARMENIA AND KAZAKHSTAN. THE LEADER OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, CATHOLICOS KAREKIN II OF ETCHMIADZIN, INVITED THE POPE TO JOIN IN CELEBRATIONS IN HONOR OF THE 1,700TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE NATION. THE VISIT WILL INCLUDE CEREMONIES WITH MINORITY CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS IMPORTANT ECUMENICAL EVENTS. (NOTE. THE VATICAN HAS A WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH (ONE OF SIX INDEPENDENT ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCHES) AND SEVERAL DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES HAVE ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED. MANY ECUMENISTS REGARD THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH AS A MODEL FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER ORTHODOX CHURCHES. MUCH OF THE SUCCESS IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN POPE JOHN PAUL II AND THE LATE CATHOLICOS, KAREKIN I. END NOTE).

ITALY WILL NOT EXTRADITE RWANDAN PRIEST: VATICAN PRESSURE?

17. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT EXTRADITE A RWANDAN CATHOLIC PRIEST WANTED ON GENOCIDE CHARGES BY THE

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INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL. FATHER ATHANASE SEROMBA, ACCUSED OF ORDERING HIS CHURCH TO BE BULLDOZED, CRUSHING AND KILLING UP TO 2500 PARISHIONERS, HAS BEEN LIVING IN FLORENCE UNDER THE NAME ANASTASIO SUMBA BURA. ALTHOUGH ITALIAN

AUTHORITIES SAY THAT AN AD HOC DECREE IS REQUIRED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE ICTR, SOURCES OF "THE SUNDAY TIMES" CITE DISCREET PRESSURE FROM THE VATICAN AS THE REAL REASON FOR THE DELAY. A STATEMENT FROM THE ITALIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE SAID SEROMBA SHOULD BE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, AND THAT EVENTS IN RWANDA DURING THE GENOCIDE ERA WERE SHROUDED IN CONFUSION. (NOTE: THE VATICAN BELIEVES AN ANTI-CATHOLIC PREJUDICE LIES BEHIND EFFORTS TO PROSECUTE PRIESTS AND NUNS FOR ALLEGED GENOCIDE CRIMES. END NOTE).
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